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On NOVEMBER 5, 2003

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP

By: Nancy Pizzo

NANCY PIZZO

PATENT

Attorney Docket No.: 017516-006810US

Customer No.: 20350

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

GERBI, Craig Richard et al.

Application No.: 10/624,848

Filed: July 21, 2003

For: Tool Guide and Method for Introducing an
End Effector to a Surgical Site in
Minimally Invasive Surgery

Confirmation No.

Examiner:

T.C./Art Unit: 3732

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

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Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-referenced application, please enter the following amendments and remarks.